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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MARCH, 1979 79-3

MEETING NOTICE

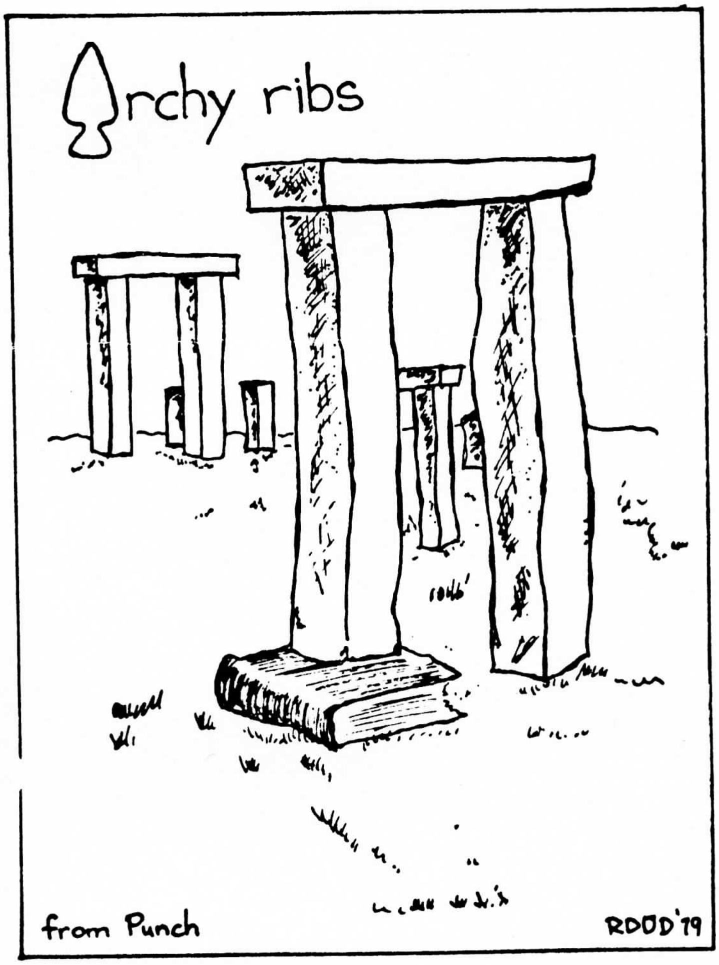
This month's meeting features a talk by Mr. Ian Kenyon, Field Archaeologist for the Ministry of Culture and Recreation in London, entitled *Four Thousand Years of Ausable Prehistory*. Ian will be discussing the data generated through three seasons of survey along the lower reaches of the Ausable River, during which time he concentrated on campsites representing the Late Archaic to Late Woodland periods. Meeting time is 8:00 P.M. on March 8. The location is the Gallery of Somerville House, University of Western Ontario.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

There was full attendance at the February 27 executive meeting in Aylmer, and much was accomplished. Rudy surprised all present by distributing written minutes of the previous two meetings, which resulted in a quickly accepted motion that he act as Chapter archivist, holding all previous correspondence and documents. Mr. Fecteau then reported that plans were firming up for our October 5-8, 1979 New York State bus tour; however, Norah indicated that we were experiencing some difficulty in reserving a bus for the long weekend.

The possibility of our Chapter hosting the 1980 Ontario Archaeological Symposium in London was discussed, and the executive is in the process of investigating the costs, logistic requirements, etc. Expanded advertising in connection with our membership drive was considered, but it was suggested that we begin by contacting tardy 1978 members! If you know of any, a gentle reminder would be in order, as they will not be receiving this issue of KEWA.

News from the Toronto executive concerned a recent application for Chapter status by a group in Thunder Bay (our first northern Ontario chapter) and the establishment of a hiring committee to interview applicants for the new part-time Administrator position. Mr. Charles Nixon has agreed to participate on this committee, along with Mr. Stew Leslie of Hamilton and Ms. Janet Cooper, Dr. Martha Latta, and Dr. Jock McAndrews (Chairman) of Toronto.



STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1978

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1st, 1978		$ 309.25
RECEIPTS 1978:		
Memberships	238.00	
Bank Interest	8.78	
Lake Huron Bus Tour	2839.62	
	$3086.40	3086.40
TOTAL RECEIPTS		$ 3395.65

DISBURSEMENTS:		
O.A.S. Toronto Membership	48.00	
Service Charge Bank	2.00	
Postage & Printing KEWA	90.83	
Huron Bus Tour	2677.14	
Christmas Party	30.00	
	2847.97	
Bank Balance Jan.4, 1979	547.68	
	$3395.65	$ 3395.65

GEORGE CONNOY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

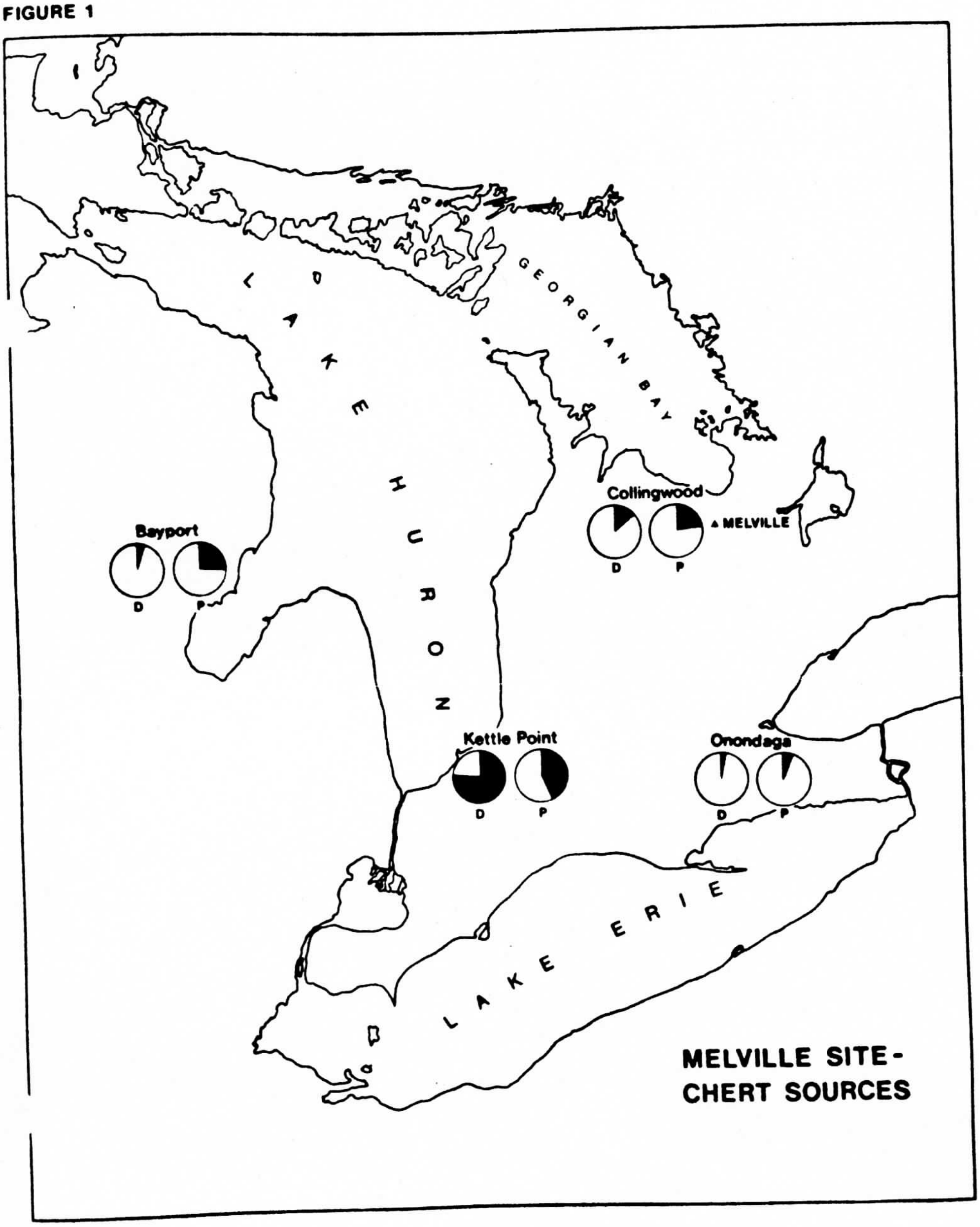
LITHIC TOOLS FROM THE MELVILLE SITE (BbHa-7)

WILLIAM A. FOX

Over the last nine years the author has assembled metric and qualitative data of a consistent nature on projectile points and scrapers from Late Woodland sites in Southern Ontario. Thousands of tools have been recorded from collections in the National Museum of Man, Royal Ontario Museum, University of Toronto, and in private hands. Most of the artifacts are of Iroquoian provenience; and specifically, they represent Princess Point through Historic Huron, Petun and Neutral cultural groups.

The assemblage described in this brief report consists of all the lithic projectile points recovered by Mr. C. Garrac in his 1978 excavations on the Melville village site near Creemore (see Figure 1). Some additional tool forms and debitage included in the sample are also described below. The Melville site is believed to be a Tionnontateronon (Petun) village dating to approximately 1615 A.D. (based on glass bead types), and all artifacts derive from 11 five foot squares excavated in three separate midden areas.

FIGURE 1

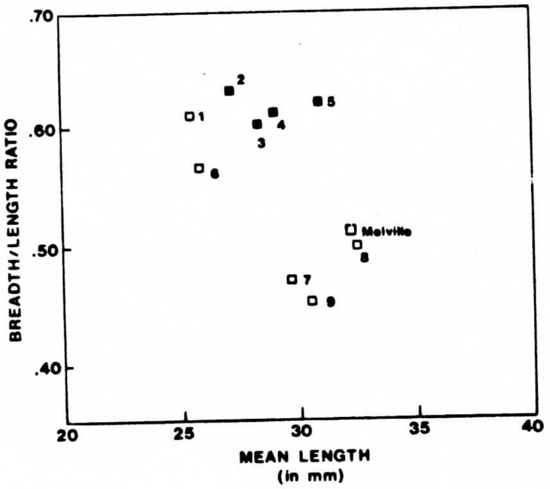


TRIANGULAR PROJECTILE POINTS

Of 35 specimens, only 19 are complete enough to provide maximum length measures. The mean maximum length is 31.8 mm (s.d. 6.4 mm), while the mean breadth/length ratio is .51 (s.d. .13); placing the Melville sample close to Sidey-Mackay (N-9) and Haney-Cook (N-12), but separate from the MacMurchy (N-20), McEwen (N-9), Campbell-Kelly (N-42), Plater-Fleming (N-7), Plater-Martin (N-17) and (to a lesser extent) Glebe (N-9) site cluster in terms of size and shape (see Figure 2). The modal lateral edge configuration (N-32) is convex/convex (see Table 1), the modal basal edge configuration (N-31) is concave (see Table 2), and frequency of oblique bases is 10/31 or 32%. Kettle Point chert is the most popular raw material utilized for this tool form, followed by Bayport chert (see Figure 1[*] and Table 3).

FIGURE 2

TIONNONTATERONON TRIANGULAR PROJECTILE POINTS



OTHER ARTIFACTS

Also included in the sample are: one end scraper, two bipolar cores and sixty-one pieces of debitage, some of which are retouched.

The end scraper is manufactured from Kettle Point chert, is double ended, and exhibits partial ventral retouch. It is 25 mm long, 16 mm wide, 10 mm thick, and has working edge angles at either end of 70° and 90°,, respectively.

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[*] The letters "D" and "P" in Figure 1 refer to debitage and points.

One bipolar core is an opposed ridge specimen of Kettle Point chert, while the second Collingwood chert core is of the point-ridge variety.

All but two pieces of the debitage are chert, the former being limestone. Included within the debitage are two retouched bipolar fragments of Bayport chert, which may well represent crude biface blanks imported from the Saginaw Bay area. Kettle Point chert represents 76% (N-45), Collingwood chert 14% (N-8), Bayport chert 5% (N-3), Onondaga chert 3% (N-2) and unidentified chert 2% (N-1) of the chert debitage sample (N-59) (see Figure 1).

DISCUSSION

The size and form of the projectile points are consistent with other late sixteenth and early seventeenth century Tionnonteronon samples; however, southern Lake Huron basin chert sources predominate to an unusual extent (69%). Desirable Onondaga chert from the adjacent Attiwandaron (Neutral) area to the south is represented by only 2 specimens (6%). The debitage sample reinforces the above chert source observation, as it includes 81% Huron basin cherts. Whoever inhabited the Melville site participated in a predominately western oriented chert acquisition system.

The cores and certain of the debitage reflect the Tionnonteronon occasional utilization of a bipolar flake production technique, while the two limestone flakes indicate the beginning of what later became an important stone pipe manufacturing industry in the area.

There is only one end scraper in the sample, which obviously cannot be considered to represent a standard of the Melville industry;

however, it is interesting that partial ventral retouch was the modal form of Attiwandaron end scrapers c.1615 A.D. A similar conformity in this regard has been noted in the slightly earlier and much larger MacMurchy end scraper sample. Whether this indicates the presence of Attiwandaron flint knappers on either site is open to question.

CONCLUSIONS

While on a trip to the Tionnontateronon in January 1616A.D., Champlain visited the cheveux relevés (a band of the Outaouacs), who were living nearby. The cheveux relevé spent their summers in the northern Georgian Bay area and travelled extensively throughout the Huron basin and beyond. Information concerning the source of red siltstone/slate used in bead manufacturing on Tionnontateronon sites strongly suggests that the raw material was transported and perhaps worked by Outaouacs. Relative chert type frequencies in the admittedly small Melville sample described above lend credence to this postulated Outaouac lithic material transportation and exchange system, and it appears likely that the Melville village site inhabitants had close contact with a wintering Outaouac group in their area.

TABLE 1: PROJECTILE POINT LATERAL EDGE CONFIGURATION (N-32)

Convex/Convex	Convex/Concave	Concave/Concave	Straight/Convex	Straight/Concave	Straight/Straight
13 (41%)	5 (16%)	4 (13%)	4 (13%)	5 (16%)	1 (3%)

TABLE 2: PROJECTILE POINT BASAL CONFIGURATION (N-31)

Concave	Convex	Straight	Concave/Convex	Irregular
17 (55%)	9 (29%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)

TABLE 3: PROJECTILE POINT RAW MATERIAL TYPE (N-35)

Kettle Point Chert	Bayport Chert	Collingwood Chert	Onondaga Chert	Quartzite
15 (43%)	9 (26%)	8 (23%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)

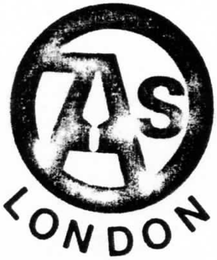
SOCIAL REPORT

This year's McMaster Symposium was held on February 24 in Kenneth Taylor Hall and was entitled *Ethnohistory and Archaeology*. Dr. Peter Ramsden chaired the morning session which included papers by David Christianson (Fort Severn or Nieu Savanne : A Preliminary Statement on Ethnic Identification of Fur Trading Posts), Professor Helen Devereux (The Archaeology of the Beothuk), Rita Michael (The Jordan Pottery Excavation and Study Project) and Dr. William Noble (Effigy Pipes). The afternoon session was chaired by Patricia Sutherland. Dr. Roscoe Wilmeth presented a talk entitled *An Athobaskan Hypothesis,* while Morris Brizinski spoke on his Frank Bay site excavations (Feast, Famine or Fast Foods), Dr. Robert McGhee discussed evidence of Norse contact and activities in the high Arctic, and Dr. Walter Kenyon described his excavation of an Historic Neutral cemetery (Death and Geometry). The latter title reminded me of my high school math career -

A majority of the talks were excellent and the symposium was counted a success by those who attended. The London Chapter contingent included Martin Cooper, Scarlett Janusas, George Connoy, Charles Nixon, Stewart Leslie and Bill Fox. Perhaps larger scale group transportation from London could be arranged for next year's symposium.

CHAPTER LOGO CONTEST

In response to a proposal at our last general meeting, the logos submitted for our contest are presented below for your consideration:



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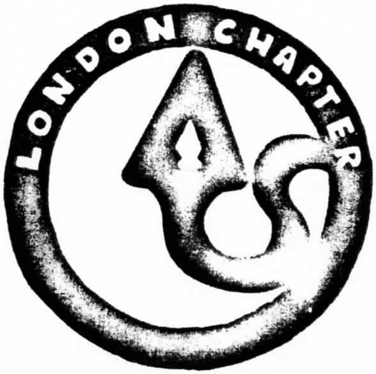

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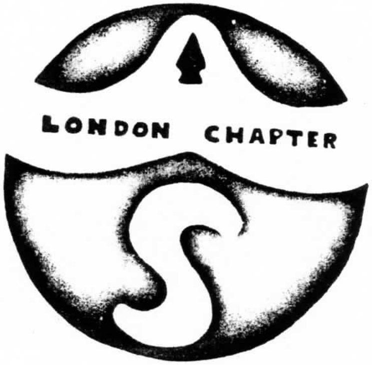

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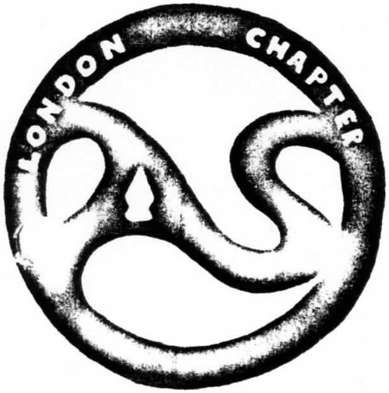

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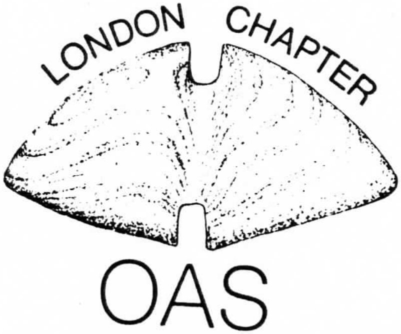

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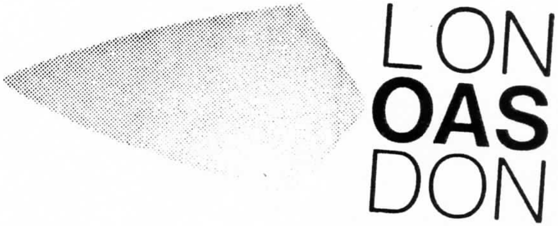

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You may vote for any number of designs and your completed ballot should be brought to the Thursday, March 8 meeting or sent immediately to the:

KEWA Editor,
55 Centre Street,
London, Ontario
N6J 1T4

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